

Thompson, Scott

From: Thompson, Scott

Sent: Friday, May 13, 2011 9:17 AM

To: 'dee.weghorst@mail.house.gov'; 'jason.steinbaum@mail.house.gov'

Subject: update on Albanian local elections

Attachments: WASHINGTON-#5169145-v1-DP_elections_update_051211.DOC; Albanian elections letter.pdf

Hello, Dee and Jason. Please see the attached interim note on Albania's local elections from the perspective of our firm, which represents the Government of Albania, as you will remember. I also have attached an update from yesterday afternoon from the Democratic Party of Albania. Please just let me know any thoughts you have, and we look forward to talking to you again soon.

Best regards,
Scott

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7/18/2011



Partia **Demokratike** e Shqipërisë

Democratic Party of Albania
INFO UPDATE
No.41

Date: 12/05/2011
Time: 16:30 hrs
Subject: **Current Overall Electoral Statistics**

Total Number of Voters in the Republic of Albania: 3.1 million citizens

Voter's Turnout in 2011 Local Elections: 1,342,108

Voter's Turnout in Tirana District: 227,000

Percentage of Voter's Turnout in Tirana District: 47%

General Popular Vote

Democratic Party led Coalition "Alliance for Citizens" 637,298 votes

Socialist Party led Coalition "Alliance for the Future" 571,132 votes

Ongoing counting for City Councils

Tirana:

Democratic Party led Coalition "Alliance for Citizens" 88,252 votes

Socialist Party led Coalition "Alliance for the Future" 90,353 votes

Korça:

Democratic Party led Coalition "Alliance for Citizens" 12,137 votes

Socialist Party led Coalition "Alliance for the Future" 14,589 votes

Elbasan:

Democratic Party led Coalition "Alliance for Citizens" 18,350 votes

Socialist Party led Coalition "Alliance for the Future" 17,811 votes

Durrës:

Democratic Party led Coalition "Alliance for Citizens" 30,945 votes

Socialist Party led Coalition "Alliance for the Future" 29,042 votes

Republic of Albania: 308 Communes, 65 Municipalities and 11 Municipal Units in the District of Tirana.

Democratic Party won 24 Municipalities (enlisted here below)

Peqin, Çorovodë, Poliçan, Leskovik, Bilisht, Kukës, Bajram Curri, Peshkopi, Lezhë, Vau i Dejës, Fushë-Arrëz, Pukë, Kamzë, Vorë, Rrogozhinë, Delvinë, Klos-Mat, Bulqizë, Manëz, Sukth, Krujë, Cërrik, Shkodër, Koplik.

Democratic Party won 83 Communes (enlisted here below)

Velabisht, Gjocaj, Pajovë, Përparim, Shezë, Cakran, Fier-Shegan, Perondi, Krutje, Tërbuf, Qendër-Mallakastër, Cepo, Lunxhëri, Luftinjë, Petran, Drenovë, Gorë, Lekas, Moglice, Mollaj, Qendër Bulgarec, Vithkuq, Voskopojë, Liqenas, Pirc, Pojan, Vreshtas, Barmash, Çlirim, Mollas-Kolonjë, Qendër-Ersekë, Qendër-Leskovik, Buçimas, Qender-Skrapar, Hoçisht, Miras, Qender-Bilisht, Bicaj, Malzi, Shishtavec, Fajza, Gjinaj, Golaj, Bujan, Bytyc, Fierzë-Tropojë, Llugaj, Margegaj, Tropojë Fshat, Shënkoll, Fan, Kaçinar, Fushë-Cidhen, Orosh, Selitë-Mirditë, Bushat, Kastrioti, Gjegjan, Qaf-Mali, Qelëz, Qerret, Maqellare, Farkë, Kashar, Paskuqan, Synej, Qender-Tomin, Qender-Vlore, Markat, Vergo, Koms, Lis, Shupenze, Katund i Ri, Rashbull, Xhafzotaj, Belsh, Gostimë, Bradashesh, Gjergjan

Municipalities where DP is currently leading (counting going on)

Mamurras

8 (Eight) Communes where DP is currently leading (counting going on)

Kozare, Kastrat, Melan, Golem-Kavajë, Luz i vogël, Selishta, Shushicë, Zergjan

SP Party won 60 Municipalities (enlisted here below)

Gjirokastrë, Patos, Kuçovë, Divjakë, Ballsh, Memaliaj, Tepelenë, Këlcyre, Përmet, Ura Vajgurore, Maliq, Ersekë, Pogradec, Rrëshen, Rubik, Laç, Kavajë, Vlorë, Berat, Fier, Lushnjë, Himarë, Orikum, Sarandë, Konispol, Burrel, Fushë, Krujë, Komunat, Levan, Dushk, Golem-Lushnjë, Gradishtë, Fratar, Hekal, Qendër-Tepelenë, Qendër-Piskovë, Libonik, Novoselë-Kolonjë, Krumë, Lekbibaj, Arras, Shëngjin, Kalaja e Dodës, Rrethinat, Fierzë-Pukë, Luzni, Dajt, Muhur, Vllahinë, Ksamil, Sillove, Kutalli, Otlak, Poshnjë, Paper, Shëngjin, Shushicë, Voskop, Korçë, Durrës

Municipalities where SP is currently leading (counting going on)

Elbasan

10 (ten) Communes where SP is currently leading (counting going on)

Vertop, Portëz, Dermenas, Balldren i Ri, Guri i zi, Gruemirë, Kote, Xarë, Gure, Ishëm,

13 (thirteen) Independent Candidates won the following Communes:

Dropull i Poshtëm-Dhimitri Maluqi; Dropull i Sipërm-Hristo Duci; Pogon-Thanas Qiro; Krahës-Astrit Dervishi; Kthellë-Prend Lekgegaj; Lurë-Hakik Gjokola; Novoselë-Kanan Shakaj; Lukovë-Vladimir Kumi; Aliko-Kristo Kaishi; Dhiver-Sokrat Kalcuni; Livadhja-Irodhis Dalani; Finiq-Ziso Lluci; Mesopotan-Themistokli Kaishi

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May 13, 2011

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Congresswoman Jean Schmidt
Co-Chair, Albanian Issues Caucus
Attn.: Dee Weghorst

Congressman Eliot Engel
Co-Chair, Albanian Issues Caucus
Attn.: Jason Steinbaum

Re: Interim Note on Local Elections in Albania

As you know, on Sunday, May 8, 2011, the Republic of Albania, whose government our firm represents here in Washington, held nationwide local elections. While the counting of ballots continues in some close races, notably including in the capital of Tirana and in the port of Durres, to this point, they are proceeding in a fundamentally orderly fashion under international supervision. The final stages of counting may take a day or so longer. I am attaching an update we received yesterday from the Democratic Party of Albania.

As Jonathan Stonestreet, the head of the Election Observation Mission for Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), noted, "The local government elections were competitive and transparent." The Government of Albania's decision to welcome hundreds of election monitors from the OSCE and elsewhere helped to ensure the transparency of the elections.

Moreover, "The vote generally took place in a calm atmosphere," according to Hana Richtermocova, the head of the Council of Europe's delegation. No pre- or post-election loss of life has been reported so far, despite what Stonestreet aptly describes as "an environment of high polarization and mistrust between parties in government and opposition."

The success of the elections is a part of Albania's continued integration into European political, economic, and security institutions. The elections provide a way to break the political deadlock that has plagued the country for much of the past two years. Given those lingering tensions, we would welcome any statements you and your fellow Caucus members can make to encourage the orderly conclusion of the reporting of results. Furthermore, we hope that Caucus members will consider making floor statements commending Albania for holding generally successful elections that should help the country's integration into NATO and the European Union. Thank you in advance for your assistance, and please let us know how we can help you.

Best regards,


Scott C. Thompson

Cc: The Honorable Gilbert Galanxhi, Ambassador, Republic of Albania
Cc: Avni Mustaphaj, Executive Director, National Albanian American Council